

PASTORATE PROFILE

The United Reformed Church in Cheltenham
Prestbury
St Andrews
Warden Hill

A. CONTEXT

The United Reformed Church in Cheltenham

Cheltenham is a regency town which thrived as a result of the discovery of spa water in the 18th Century. It is an affluent town with a number of large industries, government departments and companies which have attracted people from all parts of the country. The Government Communication Headquarters (GCHQ) is based in Cheltenham as is the Countryside Agency. Several companies either have their headquarters or major offices in the area; the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, the Chelsea Building Society, M & G Insurance, Zurich Insurance and Kraft Foods. There are two major firms in the aviation industry; Messier-Dowty and Smiths Aerospace. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is based here and Cheltenham is also home to the University of Gloucestershire which has a number of campuses spread across the town.

Any Irishman will tell you that Cheltenham is of course famous for its horseracing, particularly in March for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. The town hosts many cultural festivals; music, science, jazz, folk, literature and even cheese! This and the beauty of the town and its surrounding area brings many visitors and tourists

The population of Cheltenham is around 110,000 and there is a higher than average number of older citizens. The people are predominantly white with few people of African and Asian origins. There are also more people in Cheltenham educated to a higher level than the national average.

Whilst this Cotswold spa town is an area of good employment and affluence there are a number of deprived areas where the teenage pregnancy rate exceeds the national average and drugs, alcohol and their associated crimes are prevalent.

The United Reformed Church in Cheltenham (URCiC) came into being 14 years ago. St Andrew's had appointed a Minister in 1988 but in 1991 Prestbury and Warden Hill United Reformed Churches became vacant. The Minister of St Andrew's suggested to the Church Secretaries that the three churches should consider a team ministry. This proposal was agreed and approved by all three church meetings and a team ministry of two Ministers serving the three Churches was created.

The three worship centres are:

- Prestbury, which is in a village setting on the northern side of Cheltenham with a membership of 43 from the locality around the Church.

- St Andrew's, which is in the centre of Cheltenham, has a widespread membership of 185 across the surrounding area with some travelling 2/3 miles to the church.
- Warden Hill, which is on the southern side of the town in an estate-type setting and has 24 members.

The URCiC could be described as a broad liberal church in the evangelical tradition and there is a need for both modern and traditional styles of worship.

The Church Council is the umbrella committee of the United Reformed Church in Cheltenham (URCiC) and has its own Secretary and Treasurer and includes the three Church Secretaries, a representative from each church and a member from the World Church and Mission Committee (a united committee) and of course the two Ministers.

The Ministers have shared their ministerial duties across the three churches, covering worship, pastoral care and the various social activities. We have united services and united Elders' and Church meetings including an AGM during the year.

We offer the following activities across the URCiC:

- URCiC Forum – a weekly social meeting with a speaker (similar to Probus and the Women's Institute but for both sexes!)
- Bible Study
- Tuesday prayer meeting
- After-school Clubs for Children "Bright Sparkes and Volanoes"
- Learning for Leisure Courses on different topics
- Creative Cards
- World Church and Mission including Traidcraft

The URCiC bank account looks after the ministerial expenses, overseas mission donations (Commitment For Life etc) and also the salary for the paid leader of the after-school clubs "Bright Sparks" and "Volcanoos".

The URCiC has a close link with a similar pastorate in Oggersheim in Germany. An exchange visit takes place annually with the host alternating between Oggersheim and Cheltenham. This link started when one of the Pastors from Oggersheim came on a ministerial visit to the area.

Over the years the three Cheltenham churches have come closer together, sharing and supporting each other in our mission to the town and we look forward to forming closer ties in the future.



St Andrews

St Andrew's, as can be deduced by its name, is an old Presbyterian church and as such has attracted many of the 'ex-pats' in Cheltenham's Scottish community. As befits a town centre church, most members of the congregation do not live nearby, but come from all across the town and beyond. Within the congregation there are subsets of friendships particularly around the weekly Thursday coffee morning and Saturday Stall (weekly stall in front of the church and coffee bar).

The majority of the members in this congregation fall into the 65 plus age group. It is this group who carry the majority of the workload despite their involvement in other outside activities. A significant number of the congregation fall into the professional category. These people bring a wealth of expertise to the church but they too have many other commitments and interests.

The church has a beautifully restored organ and a very accomplished organist to support the musical dimension of the church. Generally the artistic taste of the congregation could be aligned more to Classic FM than Radio1 or 2!

There is a group of teenagers, mainly from church, families who worship at St Andrew's; they are hanging in there but this is a critical area for development for the new ministerial team.

The vast majority of the congregation prefer to receive scriptural authority which they link to their own contemporary secular knowledge. Within the congregation there are four retired ministers, two of whom have a high profile nationally.

The church is linked to a number of others in a Cluster Group, comprising Christchurch (C of E), Gas Green (Baptist), St Mark's (Methodist) and Salem (Baptist), and relationships are good. Churches Together in Cheltenham is the ecumenical dimension of a large number of local churches, including St Andrew's. and, again, relationships are good.

St Andrew's is located in one of the main thoroughfares of Montpellier, an area of Cheltenham developed around the Spas to the south of the town centre during the Regency and Victorian periods. Montpellier, a largely prosperous area of the town, is a mixture of offices, shops, hotels, restaurants, pubs, gardens and open spaces. The residential areas contain some of the more up-market properties; mainly Regency and Victorian in style and mostly split into apartments or flats, but some modern designs are evident.

The population around the church is largely stable, predominantly white, and is a mix of students, young people, professionals and retired people, with a number of nursing homes in the area.

The nearby town hall serves as a centre for the Cheltenham's famous international arts and science festivals and St Andrew's is used for some of the fringe events. The church premises are used extensively by different organisations within the community, for example The Scottish Society, choirs, and yoga.. The church also has links to the neighbouring Cheltenham Ladies College who also use the building.

The church and spire were built in 1885 with the addition of a hall and ancillary rooms ten years later. In 2002 the church underwent a major refurbishment programme with the creation of the Montpellier Church Centre. This consisted of the modernisation of the church interior, the construction of new rooms, improvements to others and the building of a new glass entrance vestibule. This major redevelopment project was carried out to create opportunities for outreach and mission.



St Andrews

1885

Prestbury

The congregation in this church reflects its village setting. There are members of the congregation with a deep personal faith whose families have worshipped in this church for generations. There are also a number of young families who are just starting their journey of faith. In the last five years the congregation and membership has increased considerably which has made this small village church the fastest growing URC church in the Gloucester District. The congregation has worked alongside the previous minister to adjust and adapt worship to meet the needs of a spiritually growing congregation. Courses have been run to support those seeking to understand Christianity and the traditions and structures of the URC.

Often referred to as “chapel”, a great emphasis has always been placed on working with children. Previous generations ran large Boys and Girls Brigade troops and weekly clubs. In the last ten years the focus has been on the Toddler Group and Holiday Playdays. The Toddler group has a reputation for a welcoming, friendly atmosphere and is run by members of the congregation with a role of about 30 toddlers plus their carers. The holiday Playday afternoons are planned by members of the congregation and supported by parents and friends. On average 40 children enjoy games, bible stories and activities.

The Junior Church is a smaller faithful band of ten or so children ranging from 2-9 years old. There is a strong team of Junior Church helpers who provide teaching and creative activities. Most of the children are keen to take part in worship.

Prestbury URC is situated on the main road of what is now a suburb of Cheltenham. The village is attractive and sought after as a prime residential location with two excellent village church schools (Infants and Juniors). The population is predominantly white with a mixture of professionals, families and retired people, with a number of nursing homes and sheltered type accommodation.

The building is a traditional red brick chapel which was opened in 1866. Initially set up as a centre for non-conformist worship by Cheltenham’s Congregational church, we still attract many of other denominations who live in the village and who wish to worship locally.

In recent years a number of changes have been made to the exterior of the church to make it more attractive and welcoming. The worship area is carpeted with moveable chairs which allow great flexibility in its use and style of worship. Currently we are waiting for a survey which will result in major works in the kitchen and other parts of the building.

The church is an active member of Churches Together in North Cheltenham and has good links and relationships with the village Anglican Church. At present six Anglican churches, the United Reformed Church, a Methodist

Church and a Roman Catholic Church come together for three ecumenical evening services each year. In recent months the village Anglican churches and the United Reformed Church have been discussing other ways of working together. This has recently resulted in a formal request from the Anglican Church to explore how the two churches can work more closely in other areas.



Prestbury

1866

Warden Hill

Warden Hill is on the southern edge of the town and is a large area of modern housing developments. The area attracts families and first-time buyers as well as retired people.

Five or six years ago Warden Hill joined with St Christopher's (the local Anglican church) which is situated almost opposite to bring about 'Springclean', assisted by students from Queens Theological College in Birmingham. The two churches reached out into the local area and new housing developments to spread God's word.

In January 2006 Warden Hill URC signed a 'Declaration of Intent' with St Christopher's to work towards forming a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP). Both churches have worked closely together for many years and the eldership, church meeting and St Christopher's parochial church council support working together more closely or even as one. Amongst the regular united activities are four or five Sunday services, including Easter, harvest, carol and advent services. Joint holiday activities called "Playdays" have also taken place .

Warden Hill URC is a modern hexagonal church built in 1960. There are two large halls, kitchen and new disabled toilet facilities attached to the church building and these these facilities are widely used by the local community. It is also home to the URCiC office which is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings.



Warden Hill

1960

B. PASTORATE ARRANGEMENTS

The Pastorate has been scoped for two ministers with the understanding that the ministerial team at Cheltenham will take an active role in District/new Synod committees, roles and responsibilities. The details of exact responsibilities would be discussed and agreed with the future ministerial team by the District/new Synod. The United Reformed Church in Cheltenham has the benefit of the additional services of five retired ministers, some of whom also support the District/Synod as members of committees and as Interim Moderators.

Pastoral care throughout the Pastorate is given by the ministers and elders (or, in the case of St Andrew's, pastoral care teams,) wherever the need arises. Ministerial care is not allocated or "rationed" to the worship centres. There is an element of regular visiting for some members by both the minister and by elders (to those on their care lists and those in hospital), but many members prefer to request visits when the need arises.

With regard to Sunday services, all three worship centres hold morning services every week. Evening services are held monthly at St Andrew's and a monthly mid week evening service was piloted and is under review at Warden Hill. Family worship takes place at Prestbury and Warden Hill on a monthly basis. Ministers would be expected to work out their own fair rotation around the three worship centres in conjunction with the Church Council. There are two united pastorate services at St Andrew's each year and united services split between Prestbury and Warden Hill when a fifth Sunday occurs in the month. Weekly prayers take place at Warden Hill on a Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock.

When one of our own Ministers is not available to a church on a Sunday then there is a pool of retired ministers and guest preachers, not only from the URC, but from the Baptist and Methodist denominations who take services. We also have two members who are lay preachers and all three churches also have their own worship groups.

Elders' and church meetings are chaired by a minister. Currently church and Elders' meetings are held in each worship centre with the addition of quarterly united elders' meetings and two united church meetings. The Church Council meets on a bi-monthly basis and this is also chaired by the ministerial team. Other committees are chaired by members or the minister by agreement. The Elders recognise that the current level of meetings is unacceptable. Both the Elders' and united church meeting have agreed that during the vacancy the Church Council and united meetings will deal with the appointment of the new ministerial team. This decision could be used as a catalyst to review the roles and the necessity of the various meetings held to manage and run the affairs of the URCiC

These arrangements will be discussed, reviewed and agreed with the future ministerial team.

C. PASTORATE PROFILE PRIORITIES

The following are seen to be important priorities in the coming few years for the new ministerial team. The items are listed in their order of importance and priority.

1. TELL AND TEACH Preaching, music and new forms of worship.

Helping the congregations at each worship centre to develop their relationships with God and each other by leading worship which feeds the faith of those with experience, supports those who are starting their journey and delivers the good news to those who are still searching. Supporting and developing the worship teams.

2. TELL AND TEACH Children's and youth work

To actively develop and support a children's and youth ministry by supporting the existing activities e.g. Bright Sparks and Volcanoes and the Open the Book projects at Warden Hill and Prestbury. To work with church families to action the feedback from the Youth and Children's work questionnaire in order to find new and appropriate ways to deliver God's message to children and young people.

3. TRANSFORM

Community development to fully utilise and promote the use of church buildings to support all aspects of the community. To build on the links made with the schools at Warden Hill and Prestbury and to build on the work St Andrew's have started with Social Services and 'Contact the Elderly'.

4. TEND Pastoral care

To work with the pastoral care and visiting teams to provide care, support, hospital and home visits to those on the visiting list and when requested.

5. TELL AND TREASURE Ecumenical relations

To promote, develop and maintain ecumenical partnerships and relations to further God's mission in Cheltenham.

D MINISTRY AND MISSION

St Andrew's URC Cheltenham

CONTEXT

St Andrew's has a largely "gathered" congregation whose members have very limited social interaction outside church events. As a town centre church, we seek to be part of the local community in Montpellier and to make a statement about the presence of God in the heart of a business quarter. We have a special relationship with the Cheltenham Ladies' College and students come to worship on three Sunday mornings a year. We also have a long standing relationship with other organisations (e.g. the Volunteer Bureau, the Institute of Management) and host services and events for them.

We value the ecumenical links within our "cluster" and we are seeking to build on these. We have regularly hosted the breakfast after the Churches Together in Cheltenham witness on Easter Sunday Morning.

TELL AND TEACH

Worship – St Andrew's values worship in the Reformed tradition. We proclaim God as Creator, as Redeemer in the Person of Jesus and the Continuing Power in the Spirit.

We witness to this each Sunday and in Special Services

Our Ministers plus visiting preachers, Tell and Teach the authentic Gospel message. We celebrate the two sacraments of The Lord's Supper and Baptism, hear the Word read and preached, offer prayers of confession, thanksgiving and intercession, and offer Sacrifice of Praise in hymns and songs from a wide range of sources. We expect good scholarship from our preachers and worship leaders, and aspire to good musical standards.

We reach out to those at the edge of Church through weddings, baptisms and funerals. This is an opportunity to speak to many who rarely encounter the Gospel.. We have developed some new approaches to worship – e.g. for the Ladies' College students, and we always seek to offer our best to God.

Our style of worship fits the needs of many and we attract new members, but not everyone is engaged by what we do. We do not appeal to those who look for something more charismatic and visual or who come from more Evangelical or Catholic backgrounds. When speaking to visitors, it is clear that we are not in tune with much of contemporary culture and may not meet the needs of some younger people especially. We would like to develop youth and children's work by providing teaching and support for young people. The Church needs to reflect on this for the future.

Some St Andrew's members are uncomfortable about moving our worship to another venue, (either within the URCiC or ecumenically) particularly on a Sunday morning.

We support teaching through bible study and other explorations of the faith through the URCiC. These are organised as short programmes and do not run continuously

TEND

Pastoral Care is of great importance to us. We operate Elders' Areas with teams of elders (serving and non-serving) and visitors We value the great contribution of the ministers and we have some members and elders with very great skills in this field. Others of us find this a very hard and daunting role. We seek to give support not only to members but also those "on the edge of our fellowship" especially in illness and bereavement.

We would like to build up this area and work more closely across the whole URCiC.

Reaching out to the Community

We seek to make use of buildings for the benefit of the whole community. We have a well organised hiring regime, but we are happy to discount for special needs. We have supported "Bumps and Babes" and given them a chance to build and this has now "grown" a toddlers group.

We know of people who value the fellowship of Thursday & Saturday Coffee and for whom this is the only ministry of the church. We know that the Saturday Stall is much appreciated.

We promote musical events and welcome a wide range of hirers presenting very varied styles from grand opera to jazz and contemporary music to "barber shop". We are now a well established centre in Cheltenham and are used as a venue by the International Music Festival.

We need to maintain the quality of the venue by good maintenance and enhancement (especially the lighting). We are close to the capacity of the buildings for hiring of all sorts.

We need to find ways to challenge users of the buildings with its Christian dedication and get them to engage with us. The yoga classes suggest that there is a need for spirituality but we have yet to open up a dialogue.

TRANSFORM

We support Charities through communion offerings and we are fully signed up to Commitment for Life. We have engaged in Third Word and Trade Justice Issues including Make Poverty History.

But we are not willing to commit formally to being A Fair Trade Church and we need to consider this further.

TREASURE

We are committed to prudent management of our buildings and to preserve its structure following the redevelopment. We expect to pay off the debt in 2006 and then plan for future investment, including a proposed new stained glass window.

However environmental issues are not yet on our agenda and we can only note that Bethesda Methodist Church is an Eco-Congregation.

Tony Jeans December 2005

D MINISTRY AND MISSION

Prestbury URC Cheltenham

CONTEXT

Prestbury has a friendly community spirit. As a village church many of the members and adherents are actively involved in local life e.g. PTA events at the village schools, school governorship, membership of the Mothers' Union and Women's Institute, Senior Club, Clubs for adults with learning difficulties etc.

We are actively building on our close ecumenical links and are exploring new ways to work together e.g. there is to be a Pentecost Picnic in 2006.

TELL AND TEACH

Families and children's work – Prestbury values the involvement of children and families in worship. Once a month we hold a Family Service currently led by the worship group and involving members of the congregation and the children. Junior church is available every Sunday with a rotating team of approximately 10 regular helpers. The children prepare items and take part in services for special occasions e.g. Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Christmas etc.

Tell and Teach, - As an ex congregational church many adherents and members expect to explore the scriptures through hymns and worship. The new families and children who attend once a week are often at the exploration stage of their faith and need the news of the bible explained in a user- friendly format. After many years of "trial and error" and guidance from our previous Minister we have at last achieved a balance which satisfies both the traditionalists and those at the start of their journey. In 2006 we are going to pilot moving the time of our monthly Family Service. Generally the "older" generation are keen to develop worship to encourage children and families to find their faith.

We have a church-run toddler group "Urchins" which when it first started attracted families to come and share worship. The group has now become more ecumenical and there is no transfer from the group to worship. We also find that our junior school age children are not keen to attend Family worship. These are areas we would like to explore and develop in the future.

TEND

Church growth – We have a number of members and adherents with a deep personal faith who support the church in the ways which their bodies permit! The families tend to support the Fund Raising. However we recognise that to continue God's work in the village we need to grow and develop individuals to take on new roles and responsibilities.

We have in the past struggled to recruit elders.

Pastoral Care is importance to the elderly members. We operate Elders' lists, but in reality there are a few elders who do regular visits and a number of members who quietly visit and support some of the housebound and hospitalised.

A number of our elderly members only want to see someone from Prestbury and whilst we would like to explore St Andrew's contact system we recognise that all Elders do not have a calling for pastoral care.

Reaching out to the Community

Whilst we acknowledge the work of the Toddler group and the holiday "playdays" which are run two or three times a year, we recognise that a lot of the time our church building lies empty.

The church is built on the main road running through the village and has no parking facilities. Heating is provided by electrical heaters which are instant but do not help to manage the damp. We are currently waiting for estimates for wet rot which could result in major expenditure. We need to explore ways of opening up our building for use in the community.

TRANSFORM

We support Charities through special service offerings and some members are signed up to Commitment for Life . The congregation is particular generous with Third World disasters and is committed to Fairtrade.

A number of members are not in total sympathy with "Commitment for Life" particularly the PARC project. This may be an area where better communication may help to resolve misunderstandings.

TREASURE

As a village congregation with a number of pensioners we are sometimes insular and out of touch with wider issues. The congregation for its size can raise considerable sums of money to maintain the church building.

But we are out of touch with the cost of ministry and the wider URC needs – we need to give this matter further consideration.

Julie Jefferies December 2005

D MINISTRY AND MISSION

Warden Hill URC Cheltenham

CONTEXT

Warden Hill URC is an estate church which is used by a wide range of organisations within the local community e.g. Brownies, line dancing groups, slimming clubs, WI markets etc.

The church at Warden Hill is also the home of the URChC church office, Bright Sparkes, Volcanoes and the Traidcraft stock. This makes it an important resource and part of the URChC.

TELL AND TEACH

Families and children's work – Warden Hill is proud of its work with children. We hold monthly Family Services where, along with our own worship team, we involve families in the preparation of the services and in the running of them. We also have a cooking club once a month, enabling parents to stay in church and take communion without the young ones distracting them. Two mornings a week we have 'Urchins' for toddlers, which was originally run by church members. Along with St. Christopher's we go into the local infant and junior schools twice a week to tell the children bible stories, (Open the Book). During some school holidays, Christian based 'playdays' are organised with St. Christopher's.

The alternate Sunday Services attract a smaller congregation and this is an area we would like to explore and develop.

We piloted a "worship and wonder" mid week service for the URChC and this is something we would be keen to reintroduce with a new ministerial team.

TEND

Church growth – We are continually striving to increase our membership as we realise that to continue God's work in the local area we need to grow and involve more people in the running of the church. At fund raising events we involve other groups and are well supported by the people on the estate. Pastoral Care is important to the elderly and sick, and we have several people who do regular visiting. They are always pleased to receive visits from the minister. We keep families up to date about church activities by regular mailings. Through our regular lettings to non-church groups we strive to be seen as a caring church in the community.

The statistic identify that we have the greatest potential to increase our membership based on adherents to members.

We are currently struggling to find elders to support and grow the church here at Warden Hill.

TRANSFORM

We support Charities through communion offerings and some people are signed up to the Commitment for Life programme. The congregation support Third World disaster appeals and is committed to Fair Trade. Warden Hill organises the ordering and distribution of Traidcraft goods to the other churches, including St. Christopher's.

We are fully committed to Fairtrade and we would like to encourage an increase in knowledge and sales of fair-trade products whilst encouraging the other worship centres in the URCiC to make a full commitment to become a Fairtrade.

TREASURE

We attempt to manage our buildings to the best of our ability for our own use and that of the wider community. The URCiC often use our buildings for group meetings and the URCiC office is based on the Warden Hill premises.

Brian Miles December 2005

E. LOCAL CHURCH LIFE St Andrews

Sunday Services	11am weekly - average attendance 120 6pm first Sunday of month – average attendance 20-30
Special Services in the last year	Special Services held last year included Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter, a World Church and Mission service, three joint services with Cheltenham Ladies College, three services to welcome new Church Members, a service led by the West Midlands Moderator, a joint service with the Cluster Group, two Commitment for Life services, a St Andrewside service, a Gift Day service, several Baptisms, and a number of URCiC pastorate services
Holy Communion	Celebrated monthly, generally on the first Sunday of the month with 8 morning and 4 evening communions annually.
Lay involvement	Members of the congregation read the lessons each Sunday; the Worship group leads occasional services; the church has a number of retired ministers in the congregation who take occasional services; one member of the church is a locally accredited lay preacher and leads occasional service; the congregation also contains a nationally accredited lay preacher and a member working on the third year of the TLS course.
Hymnbooks	Rejoice and Sing is used each week; items are also chosen from Common Ground
Baptisms each year	An average of 7 per year over the last 5 years
Weddings each year	An average of 10 per year over the last 5 years; in the last year approximately 25% were for members/adherents.
Funerals	An average of 7 per year over the last 5 years; in the last year approximately 60% were for members/adherents.
Church meetings	Two church meetings are held per year, one the AGM. Attendance at the last two meetings was 37 and 55 respectively.
Work with Children and Young People	Junior Church runs every Sunday morning with the children in church for approximately the first 20 minutes of the service. On leaving they split into two groups according to age, with two leaders per group. A crèche area is also available for very small children. Attendance varies, with regular (not necessarily weekly) attendance by Pre-school 5, Infants 10, Juniors 3 and 14 Secondary. The groups use 'Roots' material.
Church Officers/Committees	Church Secretary; Treasurer; various committees, including Finance, Premises, Catering, Events and Publicity, World Church and Mission. Various members act as representatives to other bodies, including Commitment for Life, Christian Aid,

	Gloucester District Council, West Midlands Synod and Churches together in Cheltenham.
Outside groups using Church premises	Rooms in the recently redeveloped St Andrews are regularly used by yoga groups; various Cheltenham based music groups for both practice and concerts; children's activities, including a toddler group and the NCT; Cheltenham Scottish Society; various training courses including the National Star College
Outreach	A coffee bar is open in the church premises on a Thursday morning (drinks and cakes) and also on a Saturday morning (including light lunches.) The kitchen is staffed by members of the congregation and the coffee bar attracts many local residents. Initially set up to provide funds for the redevelopment this continues as a means of reaching out to local residents and visitors.

E LOCAL CHURCH LIFE – PRESTBURY

Sunday Services	11am weekly - average attendance 35 10.30 am monthly Family Services (January 2006) average attendance 45
Special Services in the last year	Special Services held last year included Harvest Festival, Christmas, Junior Church prize giving, Mothering Sunday, Easter, 3 united evening services with Churches Together in North Cheltenham. Also two URCiC pastorate services on the fifth Sunday in the month
Holy Communion	Celebrated monthly, on the second Sunday morning of each month
Lay involvement	Members of the congregation read the lessons each Sunday, the Worship group leads monthly Family services; the church has an active lay person who leads worship on a regular basis.
Hymnbooks	Rejoice and Sing is used each week, together with hymns sung at school which are printed on to the order of service. Mission praise is used occasionally
Baptisms each year	12 baptisms and 8 dedications in the last 5 years
Weddings each year	8 in the last 5 years and all to outsiders
Funerals	3 in the last 5 years and all for members/adherents.
Church meetings	Three church meetings are held per year, one is the AGM. Attendance is about 16 at all of the meetings.
Work with Children and Young People	Urchins runs every week during term time with an average attendance of 30 babies and toddlers with a carer. This group is run by church members and adherents. Junior Church runs every Sunday morning with the children in church for approximately the first 20 minutes of the service. Attendance varies, with Pre-school 4, Infants 7 and 2 Junior. The group doesn't currently use any set material but is working through the stories in the Lion's Storyteller bible. The sessions include the story, activities including craft, games and songs. At least twice a year we hold a "Playdays" afternoon with a bible theme which is attended by 40 plus children many of whom do not attend church. One of our members is a Foundation Governor at St Mary's CofE Infants School. One of our members also leads a termly service in St Mary's Infants School.
Church Officers/Committees	Church Secretary; Treasurers (one for book keeping and one for banking); various committees, including Premises and Fund Raising. Various members act as representatives to other bodies, including the URCiC World Church and Mission Committee, Worship group

	meetings, URCiC Traidcraft, Churches Together in North Cheltenham,, Gloucester District Council and West Midlands Synod.
Outside groups using Church premises	The local police use the premises annually to hold their neighbourhood meetings, Mother's Union once a quarter
Outreach	Monthly coffee mornings, Open the Book in Prestbury Infants School (this is an ecumenical project initiated by Prestbury URC leading weekly services by sharing bible stories), Village events e.g. taking part in the village fete etc.

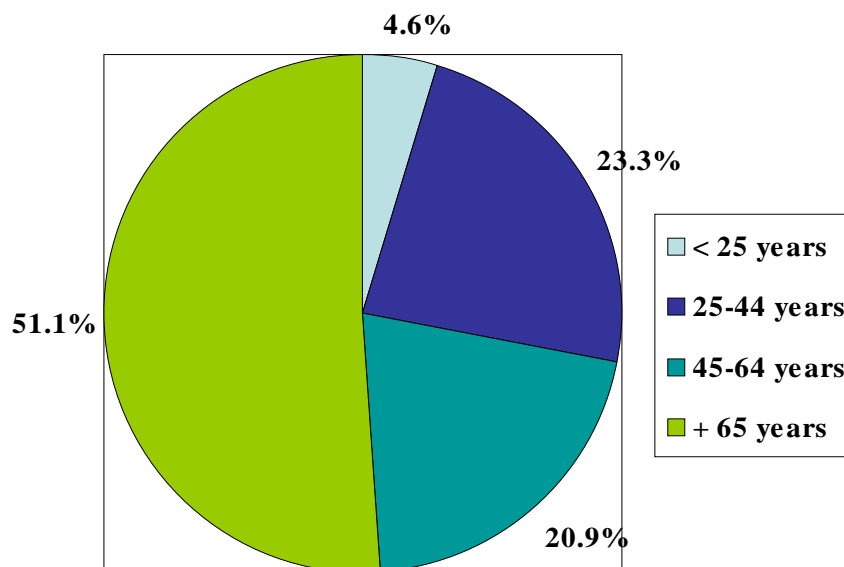
E. LOCAL CHURCH LIFE – WARDEN HILL

Sunday Services	11am weekly - average attendance 30 Mid week worship – Worship and Wonder-monthly about 20 -Weekly morning prayers (Circle of prayer) about 6
Special Services in the last year	Special Services held last year included Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter, 2 united services with URcIC and 4 united services with St. Christopher's (Anglican) Monthly family services and monthly cooking club for Junior. Church - coincides with Communion
Holy Communion	Celebrated monthly, on the first Sunday morning of each month
Lay involvement	Members of the congregation read the lessons each Sunday, the Worship group leads monthly Family services; the church has a retired minister in the congregation who takes occasional services.
Hymnbooks	Rejoice and Sing is used each week
Baptisms each year	An average of 3 per year over the last 5 years plus 2 blessings
Weddings each year	An average of one per year over the last 5 years.- for outsiders
Funerals	An average of 3 per year over the last 5 years; in the last year approximately 2 were for members/adherents.
Church meetings	Three church meetings are held per year, one is the AGM. Attendance is about 15 at all of the meetings.
Work with Children and Young People	Junior Church runs every Sunday morning if children are present with the children in church for approximately the first 20 minutes of the service. Attendance varies, with none usually on the second and last Sunday and Pre-school 5, Infants 6, Juniors 7. The group uses Roots material. A successful Playdays was run with St Christopher's at Easter last year when 50 plus children attended. A toddler group called Urchins meets weekly with about 25 toddlers attending.
Church Officers/Committees	Church Secretary; Treasurer; various committees, including Fabric and Traidcraft. Various members act as representatives to other bodies, including Partners (committee to discuss united work with St. Christopher's) Commitment for Life, Christian Aid, World Church and Mission, Gloucester District Council, West Midlands Synod and Churches Together in Cheltenham.
Outside groups using Church premises	2 lots of dance groups, karate, child minding, 2 slimming groups and local council for its regular meeting. The halls are also available for private hire for example children's parties. Alcohol is not allowed on the premises.

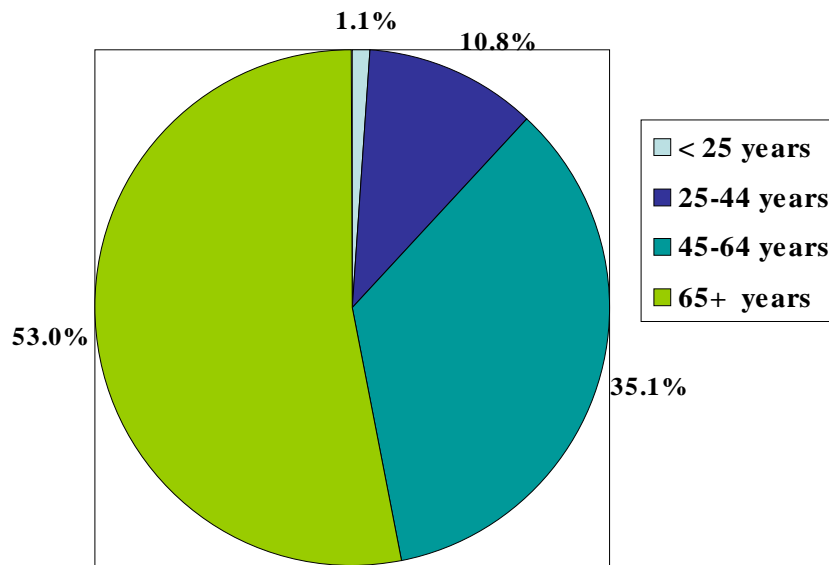
Outreach	<p>May plant sale and Christmas fair held each year and is well supported by lots of local residents. We take part in several litter picks each year along with St. Christopher's church and the local Warden Hill in Bloom Association. Open the Book in Warden Hill Infants and Junior School (this is an ecumenical project with St Christopher's leading weekly services by sharing bible stories). Warden Hill members run and manage the URCiC Traidcraft which supplies goods to St Andrew's, Prestbury, St Christopher's and Warden Hill. The profit made from this is used to support world disasters and appeals.</p>
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F. STATISTICS

Prestbury – 43 Members

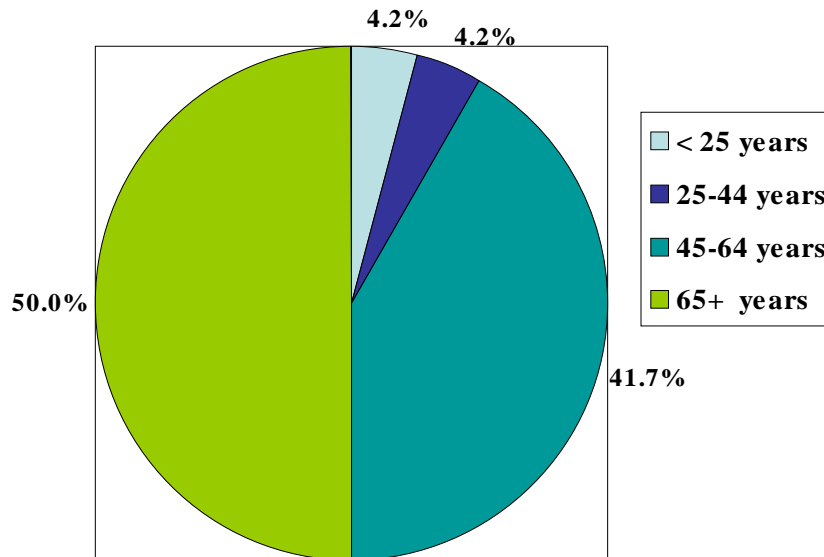


St Andrews – 185 Members

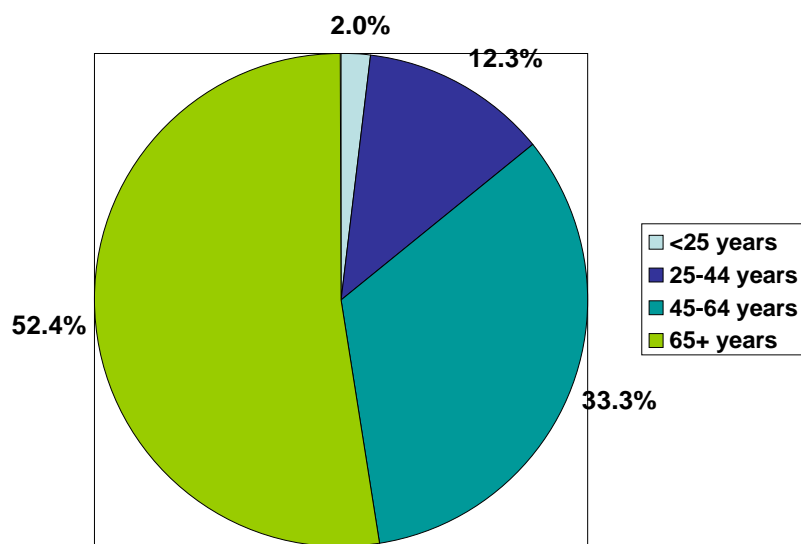


F. STATISTICS

Warden Hill – 24 Members

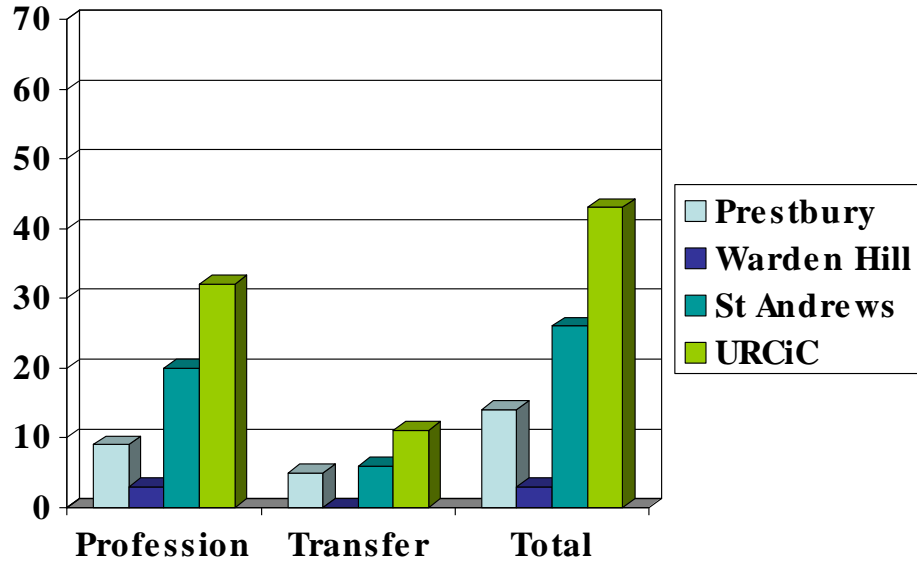


URCiC – 252 Members

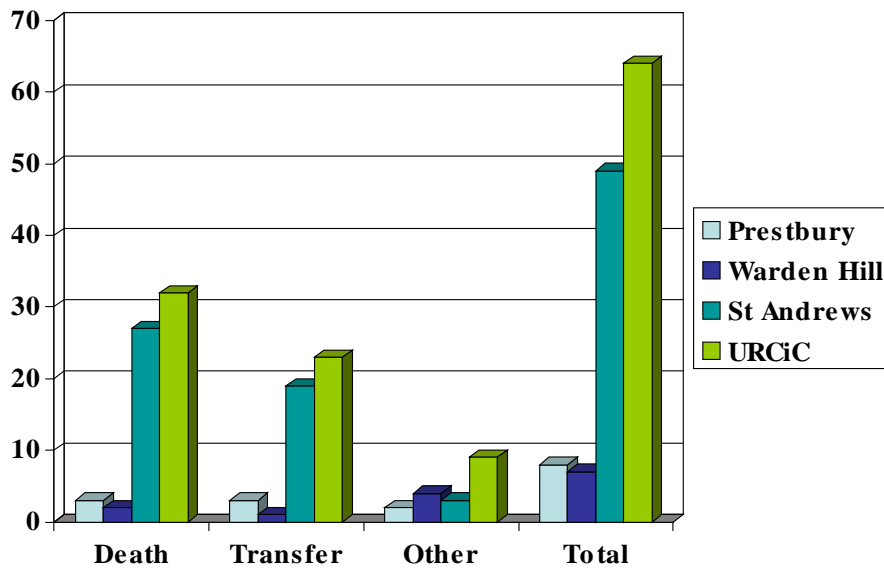


F. STATISTICS

Changes in the Roll since 2001 - Additions

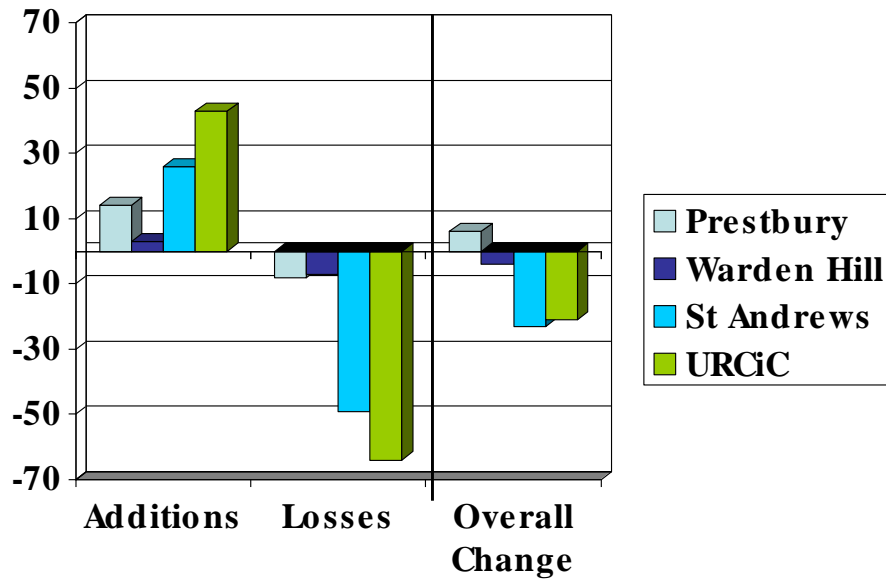


Changes in the Roll since 2001 - Losses

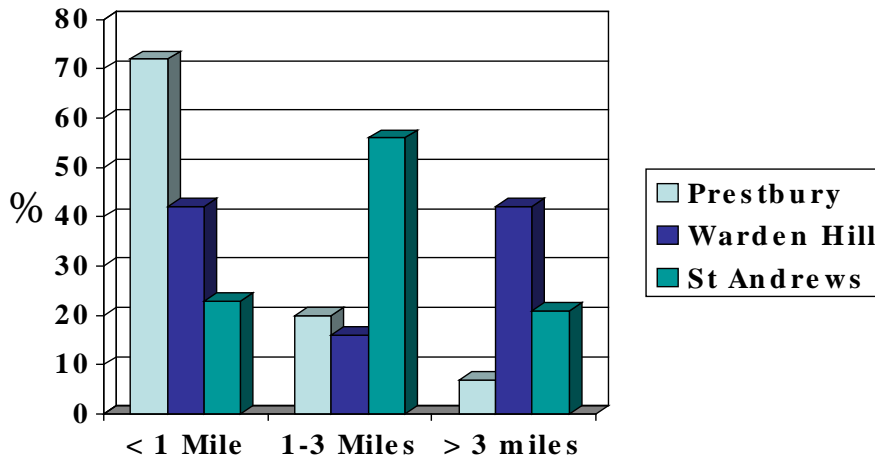


F. STATISTICS

Changes in Membership since 2001



Members travelling distances



F. STATISTICS

Adherents

Defined as those adults who attend
Church **regularly** at least **once a**
month

- Prestbury – 23
- Warden Hill – 21
- St Andrews - 40

URCiC - 84

Ratios of Adherents to Members

	Members	Adherents
Prestbury	43	23
St Andrews	185	40
Warden Hill	24	21
URCiC	252	84

F. STATISTICS

Households

The number of households of members and adherents

- Prestbury – 52
- Warden Hill – 31
- St Andrews – 156

URCiC - 239

Elders

	Serving	Non-serving
Prestbury	7	6
Warden Hill	4	5
St. Andrews	17	21
URCiC	28	32

MINISTERIAL TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

Stipend-national rates- The stipend is paid direct by National Church in line with agreed national rates.

No supplements are at present paid by the local church.

No payment is made by the local church for additional work.

Housing- A manse will be provided in line with guidelines laid down by Synod and the national church. At present one manse is in the Pittville area of Cheltenham and the other in Hatherley, but this will almost certainly be sold and replaced, as it does not come up to the required standard.

The Pittville manse is brick built and has gas central heating and a burglar alarm. The loft is partially floored. It has 4 bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, study and a downstairs toilet. There is a separate garage, and a greenhouse in the spacious gardens. It is situated on the NE side of Cheltenham between the St Andrew's and Prestbury churches.

Travel- It is envisaged that the Minister will own his/her own car and a mileage allowance will be paid at the rate of 40p per mile for the first 10,000 miles, and 25p per mile thereafter.

A fixed car allowance is paid monthly via the payroll - at present the annual sum is £1,200

Personal mileage will not be paid for.

Book allowance- A book allowance will be paid up to £100 pa. – reimbursed on actual purchases.

Administration- The minister is expected to pay for personal telephone calls. Broadband will be paid for in proportion to it's church / personal use. The church office is based at the Warden Hill Church and has two computers, telephone, fax and answer machine facilities and a photocopier. Ministers usually meet at the office each Tuesday and Friday mornings. There is a voluntary person in attendance at the office on Tuesday and Friday mornings to help with and carry out administration and typing duties as required. Sunday handouts are produced each week at the office. The monthly magazine of the URCiC 'In Touch' is prepared at the office. The office is available for small meetings, as are the premises at Warden Hill – it has easy car parking facilities.

Other- Holidays, further training, sabbaticals are agreed in line with NATIONAL CHURCH.

Days off

This Pastorate Profile was prepared by a team of Elders and non-serving elders elected by the Church Council and approved by the United Church meeting under the chairmanship of the Rev John Johansen-Berg. The members of the Pastorate Profile Committee were selected as a representation of the make-up of the URCiC and comprised the following members:-

Julie Jefferies Prestbury (Convenor)
Fiona Hall Prestbury (Secretary)
Roger Little St Andrews
Alison Stagg St Andrews
Brian Miles Warden Hill
Anne Underdown Warden Hill